



Homer-Center High School  
Homer-Center School District  
*"Where Everybody is Somebody"*

Homer-Center High School  
70 Wildcat Lane  
Homer City, PA 15748  
Jody Rainey - Principal  
Phone: 724-479-8026  
Fax: 724-479-4236

April 8, 2019

Dear Parents:

On Thursday, April 25 the Homer-Center High School will be conducting an Active Shooter Drill. The purpose of this drill is have our students and staff practice the action steps we have developed in case somebody would try to inflict harm with a weapon in our high school. This drill will include the Homer-Center Crisis Response team, the Pennsylvania State Police and Indiana County Emergency Management. During the drill we will also test our mass parent notification system. In the case of a true active shooter crisis at our school we would communicate through the mass communication system specific instructions for parents as to where to report to be reunified with their children.

Our Emergency Operations Planning Committee is mindful that an active shooter drill can create anxiety and stress. We have scheduled a staff briefing to review strategies that we can take during an active shooter crisis. We will deploy strategies of communication with students regarding this topic that will not increase anxiety or fear, but will emphasize the importance of intently listening to communication provided and acting quickly to the information to protect them from injury or death. At no time during the drill will simulated shoots be used. We will take all precautions during the drill to assure the safety of students, staff and responders.

We realize in a time of crisis a parent's first reaction is to get to their child to protect them. Parents are asked to resist the following normal parent reactions to an active shooter or crisis event at a school.

- **Parents should NOT call your child's cell phone**
  - If you child was able to find concealment in a safe location, calling your child's cell phone could reveal the location of your child and place your child at greater risk for injury or death.
- **Parents should NOT rush to the school to retrieve your child**
  - Rushing to the school creates multiple issues; it will create traffic obstructions and delay the first responders from quickly arriving at the school to eliminate the threat. This delay of emergency responders will place more children and staff at risk of injury or death. Rushing to the school will also divert attention of internal school crisis response teams from placing all their efforts to mitigating the crisis situation and attempting to prevent injury and death.
- **Parents should NOT call the school for more information.**
  - Once the crisis situation is contained or eliminated the school will activate the mass parent notification system to provide a brief update and to direct parents on where to report to reunify with their child. Calling the school as a crisis event is unfolding could jam our phone lines and hinder vital communication to first responders in route to the school. Calling the school as a crisis event is unfolding will divert attention of our internal crisis response team from attempting to contain and mitigate the immediate threat to your child and place children at greater risk for injury or death. We realize parents want to know of a crisis event immediately and this communication is a high priority to our school. However, our first priority is to deploy all our resources and efforts to contain and eliminate any threat to the safety of your child. In a crisis event we will communicate with you critical information through our mass parent notification system once the threat is contained or eliminated.

Thank you for the trust you place in us to protect, care and educate your children.

Respectfully,

Jody Rainey  
Homer-Center Safety Coordinator